

Amendments to the Claims:

1 Claim 1 (currently amended): A solidifier for the solidification of a volume of
2 liquid having a reference density, said solidifier comprising:
3 a first absorbent,
4 a second absorbent,
5 said first absorbent having an apparent density less than the reference
6 density, **whereby said first absorbent is positively buoyant relative** to the liquid
7 sought to be solidified,
8 said second absorbent having an apparent density greater than the
9 reference density, whereby said second absorbent is negatively buoyant relative to
10 the liquid sought to be solidified,
11 said first and second absorbents being combined in a mixture thereof,
12 whereby when said first absorbent and said second absorbent are
13 introduced into the liquid, **said first absorbent and said second absorbent**
14 **convert** the liquid [is converted] into a gel.

1 Claim 2 (original): The solidifier of Claim 1 wherein said mixture comprises
2 substantially equal parts, by weight, of said first and second absorbents.

1 Claim 3 (currently amended): The solidifier of Claim 1 wherein said liquid to
2 be solidified is contained within a vessel and said mixture comprises greater **than**
3 **[that]** fifty percent, by weight, of said second absorbent whereby said second
4 absorbent tends to gravitate toward the bottom of said vessel.

1 Claim 4 (original): The solidifier of Claim 3 wherein said mixture comprises
2 between about eighty percent and about twenty percent, by weight of said first
3 absorbent.

1 Claim 5 (original): The solidifier of Claim 1 and including a third absorbent.

1 Claim 6 (currently amended): The solidifier of Claim 5 wherein said third
2 **absorb nt** [solidifier] exhibits an apparent density **l ss than the r f r nc**

3 **density, wh r by** [which renders] said third absorbent **is** positively buoyant
4 relative to the liquid sought to be solidified.

1 Claim 7 (original): The solidifier of Claim 6 wherein the apparent density of
2 said third absorbent is intermediate the apparent densities of said first and second
3 absorbents.

1 Claim 8 (original): The solidifier of Claim 7 wherein said mixture of
2 absorbents comprises about fifty percent, by weight, of said second absorbent,
3 about ten percent, by weight, of said third absorbent, and about forty percent, by
4 weight, of said first absorbent.

1 Claim 9 (original): The solidifier of Claim 5 wherein the average particle size
2 of said third absorbent is greater than the average particle size of said second
3 absorbent.

1 Claim 10 (original): The solidifier of Claim 1 wherein each of said
2 absorbents is in the form of a flowable powder.

1 Claim 11 (original): The solidifier of Claim 1 and further including
2 packaging for said mixture which is dissolvable or disintegrative when disposed in
3 said liquid to be solidified.

1 Claim 12 (cancelled)

1 Claim 13 (cancelled)

1 Claim 14 (original): The solidifier of Claim 5 wherein each of said
2 absorbents is in the form of a flowable powder.

1 Claim 15 (original): The solidifier of Claim 5 and further including
2 packaging for said mixture which is dissolvable or disintegrative when disposed in
3 said liquid to be solidified.

1 Claim 16 (cancelled)

1 Claim 17 (cancelled)

1 Claim 18 (currently amended): A solidifier in powder form for solidifying a
2 volume of liquid having a reference density, said solidifier comprising:
3 a first mixture of powdered absorbents,
4 a second mixture of powdered absorbents,
5 said first mixture of powdered absorbents exhibiting an apparent density
6 less than the reference density, whereby said first mixture of powdered absorbents
7 is positively buoyant relative to the liquid sought to be solidified,
8 said second mixture of powdered absorbents exhibiting an apparent density
9 greater than the reference density, whereby said second mixture of powdered
10 absorbents is negatively buoyant relative to the liquid sought to be solidified,
11 whereby when said first mixture of powdered absorbents and said second
12 mixture of powdered absorbents are introduced into the liquid, **said first mixture**
13 **of powdered absorbents and said second mixture of powdered absorbents**
14 **convert** the liquid [is converted] into a gel.

1 Claim 19 (currently amended): A solidifier for a liquid sought to be
2 solidified, **the liquid having a reference density, said solidifier** comprising a
3 mixture of a plurality of different absorbents in flowable powder form, at least one
4 **first** of said absorbents having an apparent density **less than the reference**
5 **density, whereby said at least one first of said absorbents is** [which renders it]
6 negatively buoyant in the liquid sought to be solidified, and at least one **second** of
7 said absorbents having an apparent density **greater than the reference density,**
8 **whereby said at least one second of said absorbents is** [which renders it]
9 positively buoyant relative to the liquid sought to be solidified, **whereby when said**
10 **solidifier is introduced into the liquid, said solidifier converts the liquid into**
11 **a gel.**

1 Claim 20 (original): The solidifier of Claim 19 and including packaging for
2 said mixture, said packaging being dissolvable or disintegrative when disposed
3 within said liquid sought to be solidified.

1 Claim 21 (original): The solidifier of Claim 19 wherein said mixture includes
2 at least three different absorbents, two of said absorbents having respective
3 apparent densities which render each negatively buoyant relative to the liquid
4 sought to be solidified, and the third of said absorbents having an apparent density
5 which renders said third absorbent positively buoyant relative to the liquid sought
6 to be solidified.

1 Claim 22 (original): The solidifier of Claim 21 wherein said negatively
2 buoyant absorbents exhibit different apparent densities whereby one of said
3 negatively buoyant absorbents is more buoyant than the other of said negatively
4 buoyant absorbents and said absorbent of lesser buoyancy enhances the
5 distribution within said liquid of said absorbent of greater buoyancy.

1 Claim 23 (currently amended): A method for the solidification of a liquid
2 having a reference density, said method comprising the steps of:
3 mixing together a first absorbent having an apparent density less than the
4 reference density, whereby said first absorbent is positively buoyant relative to the
5 liquid to be solidified whereby said first absorbent floats adjacent the surface of the
6 liquid, and at least one further absorbent having an apparent density greater than
7 the reference density, whereby said further absorbent is negatively buoyant relative
8 to the liquid to be solidified whereby said at least one further absorbent sinks
9 toward the bottom of the liquid to be solidified, and
10 introducing at least a portion of said mixture into the liquid to be solidified,
11 whereby **said first absorbent and said second absorbent convert** the liquid [is
12 converted] into a gel.

1 Claim 24 (original): The method of Claim 23 and including the step of
2 mixing a still further absorbent with said first and further absorbent, said still
3 further absorbent having an apparent density intermediate the densities of said
4 first and further absorbents and which renders said still further absorbent
5 negatively buoyant relative to the liquid to be solidified.

1 Claim 25 (original): The method of Claim 24 wherein said still further
2 absorbent exhibits an average particle size greater than the average particle size of
3 said at least one further absorbent.

1 Claim 26 (new): A solidifier for the solidification of a volume of liquid having
2 a reference density, said solidifier comprising:
3 a first absorbent,
4 a second absorbent,
5 said first absorbent having an apparent density less than the reference
6 density, whereby said first absorbent is positively buoyant relative to the liquid
7 sought to be solidified,
8 said second absorbent having an apparent density greater than the
9 reference density, whereby said second absorbent is negatively buoyant relative to
10 the liquid sought to be solidified,
11 whereby when said first absorbent and said second absorbent are
12 introduced into the liquid, said first absorbent and said second absorbent convert
13 the liquid into a gel.

1 Claim 27 (new): The solidifier of Claim 26 including substantially equal
2 parts, by weight, of said first and second absorbents.

1 Claim 28 (new): The solidifier of Claim 26 further comprising a third
2 absorbent.

1 Claim 29 (new): The solidifier of Claim 28 wherein said third absorbent has
2 an apparent density less than the reference density, whereby said third absorbent
3 is positively buoyant relative to the liquid sought to be solidified.

1 Claim 30 (new): The solidifier of Claim 29 wherein the apparent density of
2 said third absorbent is intermediate the apparent densities of said first and second
3 absorbents.

1 Claim 31 (new): The solidifier of Claim 30 comprising about fifty percent, by
2 weight, of said second absorbent, about ten percent, by weight, of said third
3 absorbent, and about forty percent, by weight, of said first absorbent.

1 Claim 32 (new): The solidifier of Claim 28 wherein the average particle size
2 of said third absorbent is greater than the average particle size of said second
3 absorbent.

1 Claim 33 (new): The solidifier of Claim 26 wherein each of said first
2 absorbent and said second absorbent is in the form of a flowable powder.

1 Claim 34 (new): The solidifier of Claim 26 further comprising packaging for
2 said first absorbent and said second absorbent, said packing being dissolvable or
3 disintegrative when disposed in said liquid to be solidified.

1 Claim 35 (new): The solidifier of Claim 34 wherein said packaging comprises
2 two or more compartments, each compartment containing a portion of one or more
3 of said first absorbent and said second absorbent.

1 Claim 36 (new): The solidifier of Claim 35 wherein said two or more
2 compartments exhibit different rates of dissolution or disintegration when disposed
3 in said liquid to be solidified.

1 Claim 37 (new): The solidifier of Claim 28 wherein each of said first
2 absorbent, said second absorbent and said third absorbent is in the form of a
3 flowable powder.

1 Claim 38 (new): The solidifier of Claim 28 further comprising packaging for
2 said first absorbent, said second absorbent, and said third absorbent, said
3 packaging being dissolvable or disintegrative when disposed in said liquid to be
4 solidified.

1 Claim 39 (new): The solidifier of Claim 38 wherein said packaging comprises
2 two or more compartments, each compartment containing a portion of one or more
3 of said first absorbent, said second absorbent, and said third absorbent.

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- 1 Claim 40 (new): The solidifier of Claim 39 wherein said two or more
- 2 compartments exhibit different rates of dissolution or disintegration when disposed
- 3 in said liquid to be solidified.